GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:216
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2001
MANDATE OF NATIONAL OPEN SCHOOL
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to re-inforce the mandate of the National Open School to shoulder added responsibility for Open School Scheme in view of the shortage of Primary Schools in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OCEAN DEVELOPME MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.216 for 4.12.2001 ASKED BY S/SHR IQBAL AHMED SARADGI AND Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY REGARDING 'MANDATE OF NATIONAL OPEN SCHOOL'

One of the aims and objectives of the National Open School, an autonomous body under the Ministry of HRD, is to prescribe or offer a wide spectrum of courses of study for purposes of general, vocational and continuing education leading to certification at the school stage. Thus the NOS mandate includes programmes relating to primary schools also. In order to contribute to universalisation of education, the NOS has launched the Open Basic Education (OBE) Programme, equivalent to the existing formal elementary education programme, and as an alternative to the formal system. As part of this Programme, the NOS provides academic and technical support to NGOs and voluntary organisations working for the Basic Education of Children from disadvantaged communities, specially out-of-school children. The NOS has accorded accreditation to several organisations for the OBE Programme.

The OBE Programme has been conceived at three levels − Preparatory (A), Primary (B), and Elementary (C) which are equivalent to standards III, V and VIII of formal schools. The OBE Courses are by and large, as per the Scheme of Studies laid down in the National Curriculum Framework. However, flexibility is being provided in selection of academic and work experience courses. The materials developed under the OBE programme includes (I) Self-learning materials, (II) Blue-prints for development of sample Question Papers in Language, Mathematics and Environment studies, (III) Sample Test papers, and (IV) a large number of Question Bank items.